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**MODESTO MAN GIVEN 17 1/2 YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR DISTRIBUTING
AND RECEIVING IMAGES OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

Prison Term to be Followed by 15 years of Supervised Release

FRESNO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that WALTER JOHN KEMIC, 54, of Modesto, California was sentenced by United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger to a prison term of 210 months (17 1/2 years) for his conviction of one count of distributing and receiving visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. His term of imprisonment will be followed by a term of supervised release of 180 months (15 years) during which he will be required to register as a sex offender, and his access to children, computers, and the Internet will be restricted.

The case began in December 2005 when investigators with the Queensland State Police in Australia, while conducting an undercover operation, received images of child sexual exploitation from an individual believed to be in the United States. Those investigators contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Additional investigation conducted by FBI Agents in Modesto and Stockton confirmed that KEMIC engaged in online chat sessions, and transmitted images via a digital file-sharing program. During at least one chat session KEMIC expressed his sexual interest in young children to whom he had access in Modesto.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who prosecuted the case, KEMIC admitted, as part of his plea, that from approximately September 2005 through November 18, 2005, he used a computer and modem to distribute and receive, by use of the Internet, visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. The distribution involved material depicting prepubescent minors as well as images of minors engaged in sadistic or masochistic conduct or other violence. The defendant admitted that he transmitted the images to at least one person outside of the United States, including an individual in Australia. KEMIC also admitted that he sent images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct with the expectation of receiving similar images from other people.

United States Attorney Scott commented: "That a predator on the Internet was so quickly identified, arrested, and indicted demonstrates that law enforcement worldwide has made it the highest priority to remove from society those who seek to harm children. The sentence imposed today reflects the gravity of the harm connected to this defendant's crime."

KEMIC has been detained in federal custody, as both a danger to the community and a risk of flight, since his arrest on December 22, 2005.

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